

# Bluster and Unloaded Muskets

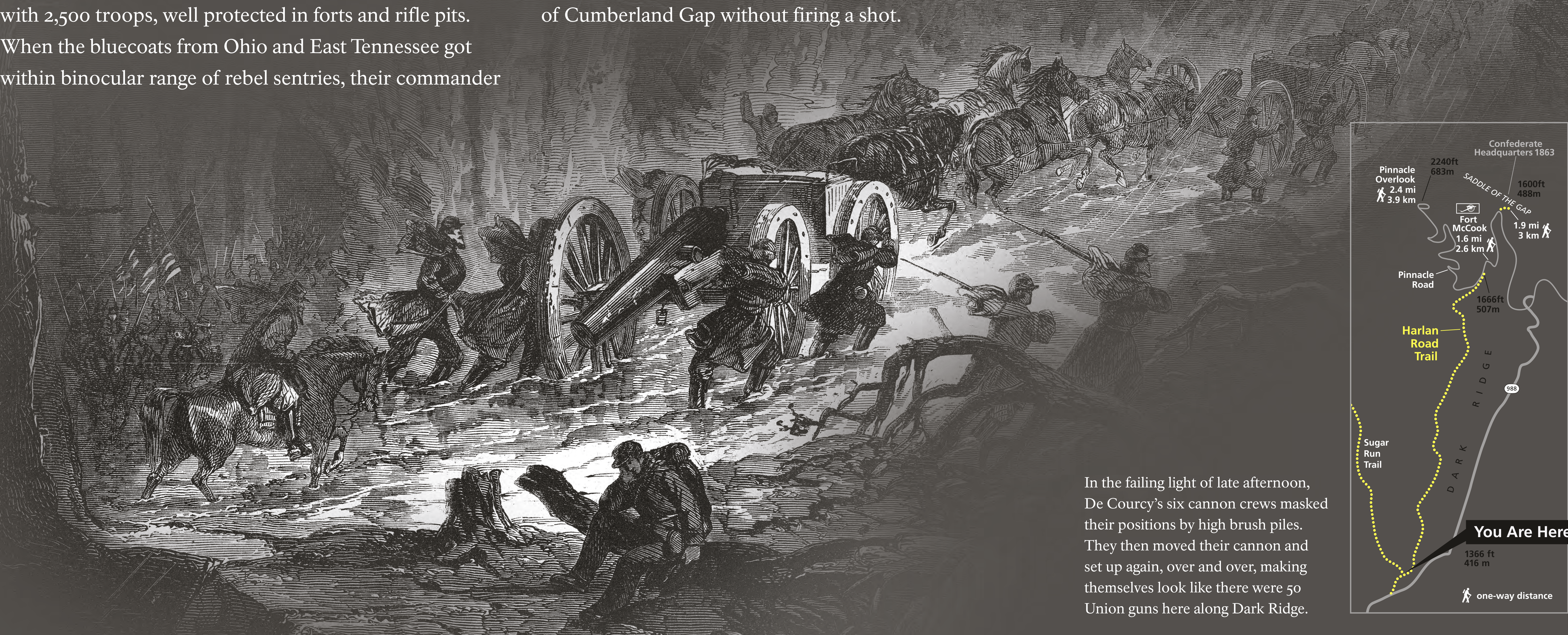
The trail you see ahead follows the old Harlan Road along Dark Ridge—the easiest way to get supply wagons or cannon up to Cumberland Gap during the Civil War.

In early September 1863, some 1,700 barely trained recruits in Union blue marched this way, coming up from the Cumberland River ford. On top of Pinnacle Mountain, Confederate General John Wesley Frazer waited for them with 2,500 troops, well protected in forts and rifle pits. When the bluecoats from Ohio and East Tennessee got within binocular range of rebel sentries, their commander

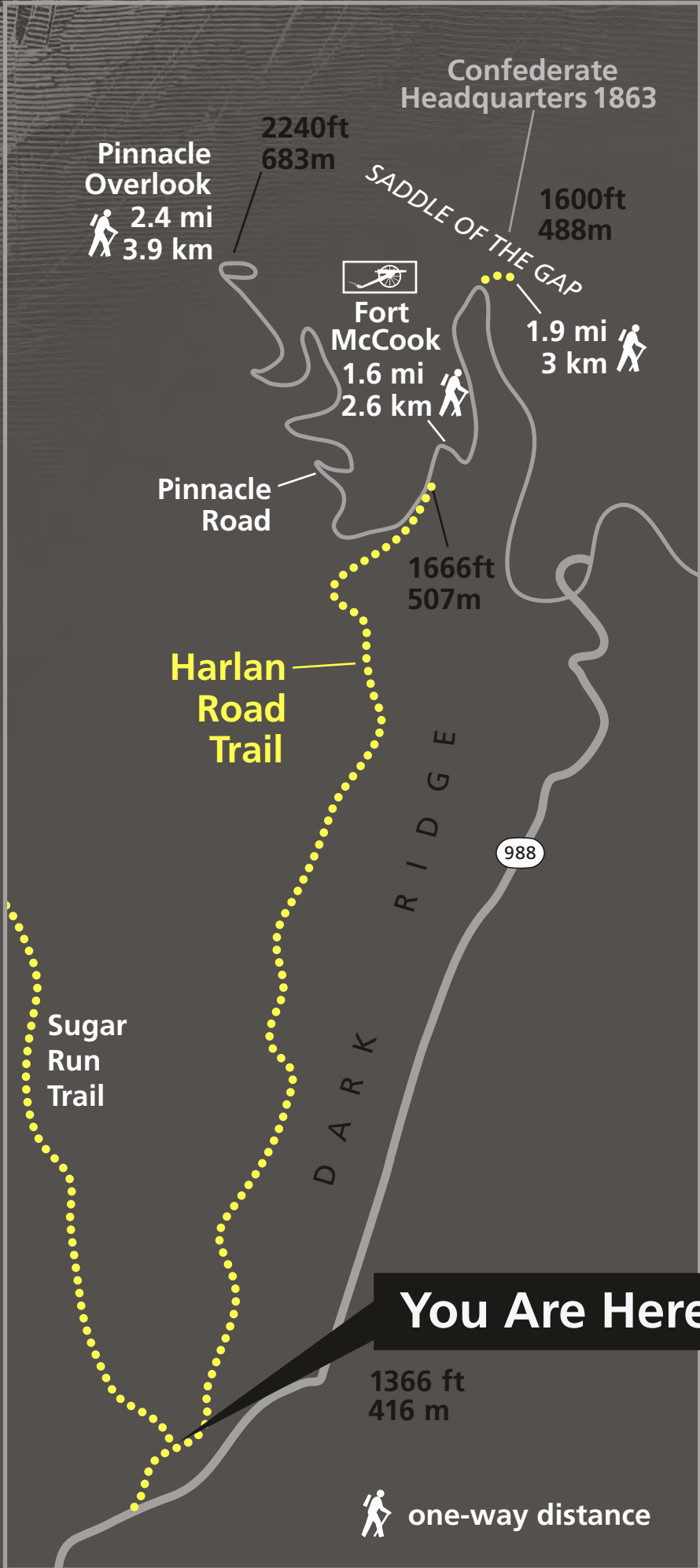
ordered them to double back, hidden from sight by a low hill, and march through the lookouts' view again—four times. When Union troops got within 330 yards of a Confederate fort, Colonel De Courcy threatened to start shelling the Gap and demanded that the Virginians, Georgians, and North Carolinians in gray lay down their arms. Convinced he was facing an overwhelming force, General Frazer surrendered the defenses of Cumberland Gap without firing a shot.



**John De Courcy** was an Irish aristocrat who volunteered to fight for the Union. Based on his British Army training, he ordered his raw, shaky troops to advance up this road with unloaded muskets—to keep a firefight that he thought they couldn't possibly win from accidentally breaking out.



In the failing light of late afternoon, De Courcy's six cannon crews masked their positions by high brush piles. They then moved their cannon and set up again, over and over, making themselves look like there were 50 Union guns here along Dark Ridge.







# Pa Ka‘oao White Hill Trail

The trail climbs to the top of a volcanic cinder cone for views of the Haleakalā Wilderness Area and the highest peaks of the Big Island. At first glance the trail environment seems nothing but barren rock. Yet these rocks are living habitat for nesting ‘ua‘u, ‘āhinahina (silversword), and a dramatic mini-world of wolf spiders, flightless moths, and yellow-faced bees. Although the summit can appear hostile to people, temporary shelters, visible on the rocky slopes below the trail, testify to a long human history.

0.4 mile round trip (643 m)  
Steep, rocky, uneven, 140 feet elevation gain

**Bring a jacket** — conditions can turn windy, wet, and cold.

**STAY ON THE TRAIL.** And leave everything in place: shifting rocks can destroy an animal’s home, sever the root of a young ‘āhinahina (silversword), or disturb a cultural site.

**Keonehe‘ehe‘e** (Sliding Sands trailhead) is near the end of the parking lot.

The ground-hunting **wolf spider** weaves no web but builds burrows under rocks



**‘Ua‘u** (Hawaiian petrels) spend most of their lives at sea, but return here to dig nesting burrows under rocky outcrops.



Look downslope for patterns of low walls and smooth level floors. Hawaiians fashioned these temporary shelters, called **pā**. All cultural resources including archeological features are protected by law.

Please do not add or remove rock from any archeologic feature within the park.





# Anhinga Trail

This trail skirts the edge of a freshwater slough, where wildlife is likely to appear at close range. The encounters are not exactly random: during dry season the slough operates like one of the many gator holes throughout the shallow river of grass. In these deeper pools, fish become concentrated, attracting alligators, wading birds, and a throng of other creatures. The drama is not just the largest egret or alligator but the combination of creatures and conditions—the water level, the killifish, the pond apple trees.

Anhingas may be found along this trail in abundance, often with their back to the warm sun and their wings out to dry. Anhingas need this deeper water because they feed by diving.

Pueden encontrarse anhingas en abundancia a lo largo de este sendero, a menudo de espalda al sol y con las alas extendidas para secarlas. Las anhingas necesitan estos charcos más profundos y abiertos porque ellas nadan bajo el agua para capturar los peces.

Este sendero bordea el margen de una ciénaga de agua dulce en donde es probable que aparezca la fauna silvestre a corta distancia. Estos encuentros no son exactamente al azar. Durante la época de sequía la ciénaga funciona de la misma manera que uno de los numerosos estanques de alligators a través de este bajo río de hierbas. En estos charcos más profundos se concentran los peces que atraen a los alligators, aves zancudas y una multitud de otros organismos. El drama no solamente se debe a la presencia de la más grande de las garzas o alligators sino a la combinación de criaturas y condiciones—el nivel del agua, los pequeños peces de riachuelo, los árboles de anón de agua.



Distance **0.8 mi / 1200m**  
Allow **1 hour**  
Surface **paved and boardwalk**  
Accessible **yes**

Distancia **0.8 milla / 1200 metros**  
Duración **1 hora**  
Superficie **pavimentada y entablado de madera**  
Accesible **sí**







# Follow the Flight Path

The trail you see ahead curving gently to the right retraces the way Wilbur and Orville Wright flew here in 1904–1905. Look for seven tall flag poles that mark the corners of the pasture. The brothers tried their best to fly only inside this field, because they respected property boundaries. It was hard enough to drag their 700-pound flying machine back to the launch rails without having to negotiate fences. Remember, their flyers had no wheels.



“On the first of three trials we found that we had started a circle on too large a radius to keep within the boundaries of the small field in which we were operating. Accordingly, a landing was made each time, without accident, merely to avoid passing beyond the boundaries of the field.”

Wilbur Wright

## Walking the Flight Path...

takes **30 minutes** to get back to the main parking area near Simms Station.

The path is regularly mowed, but not hard-surfaced. Wheelchair users should budget more time.







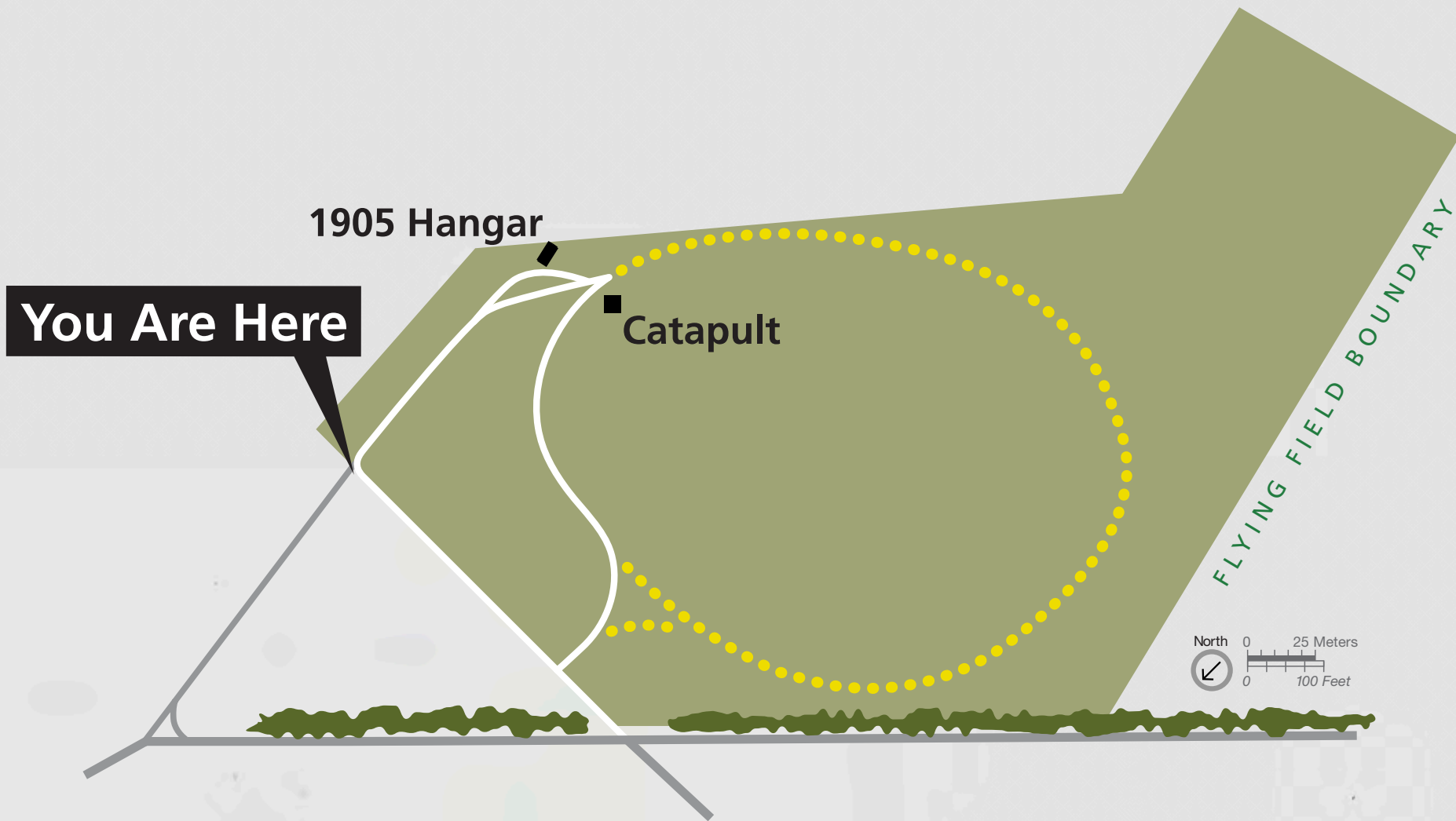
# The First Airport

If you walk into the field ahead, you can visit the cradle of aviation — 84 acres of ordinary pasture where Wilbur and Orville Wright taught themselves to fly.

In 1904, the Wrights knew they had to coax more from their brainchild than their 59-second straight-line hop at Kitty Hawk. For aviation to take its next steps, they needed a convenient, private place — a *flying field* — closer to home.

It took eighteen months of bumps, crashes, and creative problem solving here to learn how to safely launch, land, turn, and bank. By the end of 1905, the Wrights had a flying machine that was no longer a balky mechanical toddler, but a graceful, fully functional creature of the air.

## Exploring Huffman Prairie Flying Field



### For Your Safety

Watch your step — groundhogs at work!

Use insect repellent.  
In hot weather, this can be chigger country.

Check for ticks after your walk.

Please...  
help us protect the world's first airport.  
Do not dig or disturb plants.

**—** If you only have 30 minutes...  
Hard-surfaced paths take you past the site of the 1910 hangar to replicas of the 1905 hangar and catapult. Exhibits along the way tell what the Wright brothers accomplished here.

**.....** If you have more time to explore...  
The Flight Path Trail is a 1-mile loop. The path is regularly mowed, but not hard-surfaced. Wheelchair users

